

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Chief of Naval Operations  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1520.29A  
N86  
3 August 1995

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1520.29A

**From:** Chief of Naval Operations  
**To:** All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps field addressees not having Navy personnel attached)  
**Subj:** SENIOR OFFICER SHIP MATERIAL READINESS COURSE (SOSMRC)

**1. Purpose.** To revise and reissue policies and procedures for the Senior Officer Ship Material Readiness Course (SOSMRC). This instruction is a substantial revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

**2. Cancellation.** OPNAVINST 1520.29.

**3. Discussion.** In February 1976, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) established SOSMRC, with the primary goal of improving ship material condition through the direct involvement of senior officers responsible for those ships. In 1986, SOSMRC sponsorship shifted from Naval Sea Systems Command to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Surface Warfare) and in 1988, combat systems material readiness training was incorporated into the curriculum. The primary goal of SOSMRC remains that of ensuring quality of material readiness through direct involvement of senior officers.

**4. Direction.** SOSMRC will be administered by the SOSMRC Training Group (SOSMRC staff) within the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) through the Director, Surface Warfare Division (N86).

**a.** The SOSMRC Training Group will be supervised by a Senior Instructor who will report directly to N86.

**b.** The SOSMRC Training Group will be under the claimancy of the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) for funding. The responsibility for SOSMRC operation and control remains with N86. The following special arrangements are directed:

(1) Personnel resources will be controlled by the SOSMRC sponsor, N86.

(2) Normal chain of command organizational requirements are not applicable to SOSMRC. N86 shoulders direct reporting responsibilities, and CNET shoulders claimant responsibilities. Commanding Officer, Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOSCOLCOM) will provide essential administrative support, when requested by the Senior Instructor.

(3) N86 will sign the fitness reports of all SOSMRC staff officers. The evaluation of the Technical Director will be signed by Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYS-COM) (SEA-03).

**c.** COMNAVSEASYS-COM (SEA-03) will be the course technical authority and will conduct a technical audit of course content when requested by N86 or, at a minimum, on a triennial basis.

**d.** The SOSMRC senior instructor and the Technical Director will have direct access to N86 in all matters concerning SOSMRC, and to COMNAVSEASYS-COM (SEA-03) in all technical matters within the course.

**5. Location.** SOSMRC is a tenant activity located at the Naval Education and Training Center (NETC), Newport, RI.

**6. Goals.** The course will:

**a.** Provide senior officers with skills, knowledge, and understanding to make them more effective material managers in the areas of:

(1) Developing and enforcing material readiness standards.

(2) Developing and conducting effective training programs.



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(3) Reviewing and evaluating safe maintenance and operating procedures for all shipboard evolutions.

(4) Developing sound techniques for supervising, monitoring, and inspecting all aspects of shipboard systems.

(5) Evaluating the material readiness of ship's departments.

(6) Developing and appreciating the preventive aspects of shipboard material readiness.

b. Improve the effectiveness of senior officers in managing material readiness matters by providing a basic understanding of the underlying principles of operation of shipboard systems.

c. Provide a basis for senior officers to rapidly learn new systems and to deal safely with problems not previously encountered, through the application of basic principles, the use of technical documentation, and the use of "the systems approach."

d. Provide senior officers with a full understanding of how knowledgeable command level interest is paramount to the proper and safe operation and maintenance of systems. In addition to the development of how shipboard systems should perform, the course will stress how and why systems fail, what senior officers must do to minimize the possibility of failure, and what action must be taken if a failure does occur.

e. Prepare senior officers to make decisions on the applicability of technical documentation to emergent situations when the references do not address the specific problem at hand or when timely consultation with the appropriate technical agency is not feasible.

## 7. Course Content

a. The purpose of SOSMRC is to provide students with the knowledge and understanding needed to maintain material and training readiness standards through a study of ship propulsion and combat systems engineering fundamentals. Course content will be

developed to ensure improvement in the student's ability to inspect, manage, upgrade, and maintain a safe shipboard working environment. Continuous evaluation of incident prevention and safety procedures will be stressed throughout the course.

b. The course will consist of:

(1) Engineering and combat systems principles.

(2) Basic systems concepts and theory.

(3) Overall plant and individual system operations.

(4) Management concepts of material and training readiness.

(5) Ship survivability, safety, and accident prevention guidelines.

(6) Maintenance philosophy.

(7) Engineering administrative programs.

(8) Quality Assurance.

(9) Guest speakers.

(10) Damage control training in ship stability, gas free engineering, chemical, biological and radiological warfare concepts, damage control organization, and fire fighting.

(11) Underway evaluation training.

c. The course includes practical factors training at the Engineering Service School Command at Great Lakes, Illinois.

8. **Duration and Periodicity.** The course will be 11 weeks long and will convene six times each year.

## 9. Students

a. Officers en route to the following billets who have not previously attended the course will complete SOSMRC:

(1) Flag, Captain, Commander or Lieutenant Commander afloat command.

(2) Surface ship squadron command.

(3) Material readiness shore duty or staff assignment (such as Readiness Support Group commanding officer, Ship Intermediate Maintenance Activity commanding officer, Great Lakes Engineering Service School officer and assistant officer in charge, and Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) senior member).

(4) CV executive officer.

(5) CV, CVN, LHA or LHD engineer officer.

b. Additional personnel, including masters of Military Sealift Command Ships and military or civilian personnel associated with Navy, may attend the course on a space available basis and with the concurrence of N86.

#### 10. Staff

a. The SOSMRC staff will consist of 12 instructors and 5 enlisted personnel:

(1) An 1110 post-major sea command captain (O-6) will serve as Senior Instructor. A nuclear propulsion-trained officer is desired, but not required for this position. The officer selected should possess a strong background in marine propulsion or ship systems and a related technical degree. Significant experience in ship combat systems material readiness issues is desired.

(2) A civilian Technical Director.

(3) Two 1110 post-commander sea command officers (O-5). For the two billets, preferred assignments will be one officer with diesel command experience and one with gas turbine command experience. Both officers should have strong technical credentials.

(4) One 1440 engineering duty officer commander (O-5). An officer with significant shipboard experience is preferred.

(5) Three 1110 post-executive officer lieutenant commanders (O-4) and/or commanders (O-5) with strong diesel or gas turbine technical credentials.

(6) Three 1110 post-executive officer, post-engineer officer or post-CVN engineering/reactor department principal assistant lieutenant commanders (O-4). Nuclear propulsion-trained officers are required for these positions.

(7) One 1110 post-cruiser combat systems officer lieutenant commander (O-4) or commander (O-5) with strong technical credentials, preferably with a combat systems-related post graduate degree.

(8) Five yeomen, with a YNC or YNI as the supervisor.

b. Staff instructors will be detailed to provide a balance of experience, emphasizing:

(1) Steam, diesel, and gas turbine marine propulsion systems,

(2) Weapons, surveillance radar, and fire control director systems, and

(3) Amphibious and combat logistics force deck gear systems.

c. Additional staff assistance will be provided on a host tenant basis by Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), Newport and Personnel Support Detachment (PSD), Newport.

d. Staff instructors will be ordered to SOSMRC on Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders for a minimum 2-year tour. Prospective rotation dates can be adjusted, if appropriate, with the concurrence of N86 and the SOSMRC Senior Instructor.

e. Each officer who has not attended SOSMRC in the preceding 5 years before reporting to the staff for duty, must complete the course as a student prior to the detachment of his or her predecessor.

f. Criteria for instructor selection will include:

(1) The Technical Director will be selected by COMNAVSEASYSCOM (SEA-03). Candidates should possess a technical degree and should have experience in the design, engineering, and operation of complex systems, as well as in personnel training from both the administrator and instructor perspectives. N86 will be consulted in the selection of the Technical Director.

(2) Chief of Naval Personnel (CHNAVPERS) will nominate, for N86 review, only those personnel for SOSMRC instructor billets who meet the following criteria:

(a) Top-performing and promotionally competitive officers with significant engineering and material readiness experience, including successful commanding officer, executive officer, engineer officer and/or combat systems officer tours (as appropriate).

(b) Completion of technical undergraduate or graduate studies with a supporting degree or strong technical background which would lend itself to SOSMRC instructor duties. An advanced degree in a technical field associated with ship systems is desirable.

(c) Demonstrated ability as an instructor or assessed potential to excel in that capacity.

g. All SOSMRC officer staff assignments will be approved by N86. The Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program will concur in the assignment of all nuclear propulsion-trained officers.

h. Staff enlisted performance evaluations will be signed by the Senior Instructor.

## 11. Attendance Policy

a. All officers ordered to billets for which SOSMRC training is required, who have not already attended the course, will complete SOSMRC prior to reporting to those billets, unless there is an overriding need to do otherwise. Waivers will not normally be granted and will only be considered if an officer has had both engineering and combat systems experience as:

(1) A successful engineer officer (or CV Main Propulsion Assistant) tour in a 1200 PSI ship within the previous 5 years, or successful engineer officer tour on a gas turbine or diesel ship, and significant subsequent engineering experience such as Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) examiner, Inspection and Survey (INSURV) engineering inspector, Mobile Training Team (MTT) member, or engineering instructor.

(2) A successful combat systems officer tour in a ship with a complex combat system (LHA, LHD, CG, CGN, DDG, DD, or FFG) within the previous 5 years, and significant subsequent combat systems experience such as Combat Systems Assessment (CSA) inspector, INSURV combat systems inspector, or combat systems instructor.

b. For engineering duty officers, a waiver may be considered if they have meaningful engineering experience and top performance in areas related to the billet requiring SOSMRC training, such as a tender repair officer, naval shipyard assistant repair officer, Ship Repair Facility (SRF) repair officer, PEB inspector, INSURV board member, or Type Commander (TYCOM) material staff assistant for at least 5 years preceding the assignment.

c. CHNAVPERS will make all waiver decisions, except those involving flag officers. Flag waivers remain with the CNO and N85, N86, N88, or COMNAVSEASYSCOM will be consulted, as appropriate. N88 will be consulted in the cases of waivers for CV executive officers, and COMNAVSEASYSCOM will be consulted on those waivers for engineering duty officers.

12. Student Administration. All personnel accounting and support functions for students will be accomplished by Commander, NETC and PSD Newport RI.

a. Non judicial punishment authority over SOSMRC enlisted staff will be exercised by Commanding Officer, SWOSCOLCOM, when requested by the SOSMRC Senior Instructor. Non judicial punishment authority over senior officer students will be exercised by CHNAVPERS (PERS-4).

b. Student fitness reports will be categorized as "under instruction - not observed" and will be signed by the SOSMRC Senior Instructor.

c. Students must complete the entire course of instruction. Credit for attendance of the Course will not be granted to students who depart prior to completion.

d. SOSMRC will not be a "pass-fail" course.

e. Examinations and grades will be given.

f. All students will be provided with accommodations appropriate to their rank. Additional services for students, such as government vehicles, will not be provided.

**13. Coordination.** N86 will provide coordination of SOSMRC functions with a working point of contact at N869. The following commands and activities will designate single points of contact for SOSMRC coordination:

a. Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower and Personnel) (N1)

b. Director of Naval Training (N7)

c. Director, Expeditionary Warfare Division (N85)

d. Director, Air Warfare Division (N88)

e. Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command

f. Chief of Naval Education and Training

g. Commander, Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, RI

h. Commanding Officer, Surface Warfare Officers School Command

#### **14. Funding**

##### **a. Billets:**

(1) All instructor billets will be funded by CNET.

(2) COMNAVSEASYS (SEA-03) will provide for the hiring of the Technical Director.

##### **b. Course support:**

(1) Course support items including technical training equipment, textbooks, supplies, and an operating budget, will be funded by CNET.

(2) In view of the limited SOSMRC support staff, Commanding Officer, SWOSCOLCOM will administer SOSMRC funds in accordance with applicable regulations, when requested by the Senior Instructor.

(3) SWOSCOLCOM will make Navy Integrated Training Resources Administration System (NITRAS) reports, as required, from inputs provided by SOSMRC.

##### **c. Per diem and travel expenses:**

(1) CHNAVPERS will fund per diem and travel expenses for senior officer students.

(2) CNET will fund per diem and travel expenses for staff personnel.

#### **15. Reviews and Audits**

a. The Senior Instructor and Technical Director of SOSMRC will submit, at least quarterly, a written report to OPNAV N86 covering:

(1) Curriculum and Course content.

(2) Staff manning and replacement.

(3) Funding and logistics.

(4) Guest speakers.

(5) Field trips.

(6) Recommended minor adjustments to course schedule.

(7) Overall assessment, including staff and student performance.

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**(8) Other items of interest or concern.**

b. The technical content of the course will be audited by COMNAVSEASYSCOM (SEA-03) on a periodic basis as requested by N86, not to exceed a triennial basis. In order to ensure responsiveness to fleet requirements, fleet commander, TYCOMS, and N86 participation in the triennial audit is desired. COMNAVSEASYSCOM (SEA-03) will provide the results of the audits to N86 and will include initial recommendations for corrective action of any deficiencies noted.

c. Course content will be reviewed on an annual basis by N86. Curriculum changes will be forwarded to N86 for concurrence, if the change involves technical issues. Approved changes will be incorporated into the course syllabus and a revised syllabus will be forwarded to N86, with information copies provided to Commanding Officer, SWOSCOLCOM and Director, Engineering Service School Command, Great Lakes.

**16. Board of Visitors**

a. A flag level Board of Visitors (BOV) will be convened at least annually to provide SOSMRC oversight. Board membership will be managed to ensure continuity and assignment of the flag officers most qualified to provide fleet responsiveness. N86 will inform the CNO of significant findings and recommendations of the Board.

b. The BOV will normally be composed of flag officers (or their representative) from N86, Commander Naval Surface Force U. S. Atlantic Fleet (COMNAVSURFLANT), Commander Naval Surface Force U. S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVSURFPAC), COMNAVSEASYSCOM, CHNAVPERS, and N88. N86 will appoint additional flag officers to the Board as deemed appropriate.

**17. Charter.** SOSMRC will be operated in strict accordance with its CNO-approved Charter.

**18. Review.** N86 shall periodically review and update this instruction to ensure its conformance with the SOSMRC Charter.

**19. Reports.** The reporting requirements contained in this instruction are exempt from reports control by SECNAVINST 5214.2B.

**P. J. COADY**

Director, Surface Warfare Division  
(N86)

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